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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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1963 MONTANA LABOR MARKET HIGHLIGHTS

January Employment Up 5.500 From 1962

Despite a spell of bad weather and normal seasonal job declines, non-farm employment in Montana continued to hold at record level during January. Estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics placed the number of non-farm wage earners at 163,-800 during January. This figure set a record for January employment in Montana. It was 5,500 higher than the January, 1962 employment lavel. As January ended the employment lavel. ment level. As January ended, the grip of winter on the state's labor markets was released and job prospects started looking up in most industries. If present trends carry through the year, 1963 will write some new employment records in Montana.

Seasonal Declines Normal

Over the month employment shrinkage was evident in most state industries during January. The biggest drop was in retail trade establishments where post-holiday layoffs accented the seasonal change in purchasing habits. Trade employment was down 1,900 from the December total, with most of the worker loss in department stores. Milder declines were evident in remaining units of trade industries.

Construction, held in the hard grip of sub-zero weather during most of January, was shy 1,600 workmen. Most of the layoffs here were of a temporary nature, and many workers were recalled to the weather idled projects as January ended.

A drop of 1,200 in manufacturing employ-

ment is tagged mainly to the non-durable goods category, short 1,000 because of the windup of sugar beet refining at four state plants. Employment in lumber manufacturing was down a scant 100 chiefly as the result of weather-forced shutdowns of smaller mills.

Other employment declines from December occurred in the service industries, down 300; transportation, communications and utilities, down 200; and finance, insurance and real estate, down 100. Employment in all mining, at 7,400, remained the same as December. A drop of 500 in government was mostly at the federal level as extra post office workers were furloughed, and working forces in national parks and forests were reduced to winter levels.

Over the Year Gain Shown

Six of the state's eight basic industry groups showed sizeable employment increments over last January. Plant expansions in the lumber industry and the installation of minutemen missiles put manufacturing at the top of the list, up 2,100 from a year ago. Construction and government employment shared gains of 1,100 each. The mining group had 600 more wage earners, with ing group had 600 more wage earners, with metal mining and petroleum and natural gas production nearly equally sharing the increase. The opening of several new major shopping centers during 1962 brought a healthy increase of 800 in trade industry employment. Two industry groups showed no gain. Employment in finance, insurance and real estate units remained the same as in 1962. The only decline from

January, 1962 centered in transportation, communications, and utilities group, with a loss of 300 workers.

Spring Prospects Look Good

The first signs of the spring employment upswing should be around next month if the weather is favorable. A substantial agenda of industrial and agricultural activity is ready for action. Major building, highway and dam projects should push construction employment past the 17,000 mark by late this summer. Expansion in manufacturing is almost certain. The steady trends in metal mining should continue. There are already signs of increased activity in oil fields. The seasonal rebirth of agriculture and the tourist trade will bring more business to main street. They all tie together for some good employment prospects this spring and summer.

UCC Claim Peak Past

Following natural winter labor market trends, claims for unemployment insurance increased during December and January. A peak of 13,380 claims was reached for the week ending February 1. This total was 1,-301 under the 1962 claim high and 6,160 fewer than the 1961 peak claim-load. A total claim decline of at least 2,500 is anticipated during February as workers idled by the January weather return to their jobs.

January Jobseekers Total 17,437
The number of registered jobseekers at the twenty-two local offices of the Montana State Employment Service reached a total of 17,437, but was still 3,500 under a year

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
INDUSTRY	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	l)Dec. 1962	1) Nov 1962	Dec. 1961	Dec. 1962	Nov. 1962	Dec. 1961	Dec. 1962	Nov. 1962	Dec. 1961	Dec. 1962	Nov. 1962	Dec. 1961	Dec. 1962	Nov. 1962	Dec. 1961
3) All Manufacturing Durable Goods Primary Metal 3) Nondurable Goods	2.5	3.2 4.7 3.6 1.2	2.3 2.1 1.7 2.5	1.7 2.0 .3 1.0	2.3 3.4 .1 .9	1.0 1.0 .1 1.0	4.8 5.7 3.5 2.7	4.7 7.0 10.1 1.7	4.0 5.1 2.6 2.0	1.4 1.7 .2 .7	1.4 2.1 .6 .3	1.0 1.1 .6 .8	2.6 3.0 1.4 1.8	1.3 1.8 2.0 .9	2.2 2.9 .6 .8
All Mining Metal Mining		9.0 10.6	5.3 5.2	2.9 2.1	3.5 2.7	1.5	4.1 3.7	8.2 4.2	4.8 6.8	2.2 2.2	2.4 2.0	1.6 1.9	.7	2.6 .1	.5

Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures revised on more complete returns. 3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

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Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary Jan. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg— (418 jobseekers, 85 new, 306 men, 112 women.) Labor market patterns holding close to seasonal lines with substantial reduction in outdoor employment. Most layoffs occurred in Philipsburg, Deer Lodge and Garrison areas. Little change expected in economic conditions until spring.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,208 jobseekers, 978 new, 2,424 men, 784 women). Adverse January weather clamped down on all outdoor construction and slowed traffic in trade and service industrics. Yellowtail Dam work force cut to 180 with no expansion until mid-April. New million dollar motel scheduled to open March 1 will provide 70 jobs. Farm labor demand not too active, but some demand for livestock feeders. Labor demand next 60 days will depend chiefly in weather conditions.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(611 jobseekers, 242 new, 416 men, 195 women). Work on heavy construction slowed considerably during January, but some building construction continued as weather permitted. Sawmill operations kept on steady schedule with logging trying to keep pace. Trade and service volume at seasonal low. Not much activity on the farm hiring line.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,028 jobseekers, 293 new, 664 mcn, 364 women). Unemployment down one-third from last year due to increased activity in metal mining and steady schedule of construction on copper concentrator plant. Highway projects closed cimpletely until weather moderates. Increased hiring in retail stores during January offsetting employment losses caused by closure of several women's shops.

CUT BANK—(411 jobseekers, 84 new, 326 men, 85 women). January labor market in grip of cold weather, cutting down on most employment activity. All outside work at standstill with exception of some oil field drilling with heated units. Main street hiring at very minimum with most demand for temporary inventory workers. Slow trends on the farm front.

DILLON—(310 jobseekers, 131 new, 277 men, 33 women). Work on dam, commercial, and home building projects on uncertain schedules during January. Over 100 men laid off at Clark Canyon Dam site. Trade and service volume at low ebb. Farm supply and demand in balance.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Ophelm—(474 jobseckers, 105 new 334 men, 140 women). Cold weather and post holiday slump in business combined to depress hiring ac-

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	1963	1962	1962	1954-63
	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan. Avg
Industrial Employment New Job Applicants Job Applicants, End of Month	163,800	169,600	158,300	155,300
	4,766	4,435	3,984	4,933
	17,437	11.927	20,916	17,998
Insured Unemployment Week of	Feb. 2 1963	Jan. 4 1963	Feb. 2 1962	Avg. 1st Feb. Wk. 1959-63
New and Renewal Claims	1,654	1,687	1,474	1,703
	11,726	6,921	12,672	14,503
	13,380	8,608	14,146	16,205

tivity during January. Good number of construction craftsmen idle as some projects completed and others shut down by weather. Interior work on 60 low rental housing units nearly done. Practically no farm labor demand.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(412 jobseekers, 73 new, 309 men, 103 women). Cold weather forced shutdown of most construction in area. About 50 men employed on enclosed structures including courthouse, clinic, and high school. Oil field work down. January hiring mostly in retail trade and public utility fields. Livestock care main farm activity, but demand for farm help slow.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,342 jobseekers, 695 new, 1,664 men, 678 women). Hiring in all industries down seasonally during January with exception of the service group. Demand for clerical workers remains constant with expansion of finance, insurance and real estate units providing openings. Moderate hiring noted at smelter operations during the month. Construction work slowed substantially by bad weather. Despite temporary weather-caused work interruptions, the labor market picture shows good trends.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(467 jobseekers, 111 new, 385 men, 82 women). Jobseekers count nearly doubled from December, but was still 150 less than year ago. Jobless women 50 per cent less than last year. Sawmill and construction employment shows advance over last year. Cold weather and snow held back traffic in trade and service establishments. Only limited farm hiring.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(479 jobseekers, 136 new, 402 men, 77 women). Employment outlook in industry and farm not too encouraging next 60 days. All construction closed by bad weather. Main street business in winter slump with layoffs at most establishments. Public works program at Ricky Boy Indian Reservation suspended until weather clears. Farm hiring not too active, but some demand for livestock feeders.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(1,209 jobseekers 248 new, 940 men, 269 women). Weather-caused suspensions of construction work caused most new unemployment during January. Some declines also prevalent in logging and trade channels. Labor demand chiefly for professional and clerical classifications. Farm labor demand at minimum.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,506 jobseekers, 323 new, 1,234 men, 272 women). Unemployment climbed sharply during January as cold weather curbed activities in sawmills, logging, construction, and trade industries. Flathead forest and Glacier National Park furloughed 350 seasonal workers. Absolutely no farm hiring. Employment upturn awaits better weather.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnet—(519 jobseekers, 137 new, 437 men, 82 women). Industry hiring down from last year, but farm hiring shows gain of 30 per cent. Missile site construction projects completed, but missile installation activity employs nearly 1,000 in Lewistown area. Major projects in city include \$533,000 hotel and \$450,000 city water system, with work progressing as weather allows.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(482 jobseekers, 98 new, 332 men, 150 women). Job applications increased 69 per cent during January as heavy snow and cold weather closed much labor market activity. Shutdown of woods work and heavy sawmill layoffs common during the month. Trade and service volume at winter low. Some temporary railroad hiring for snow clearance. Farm hiring down 72 per cent from last year.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jurdan, Terry—(425 jobseekers, 118 new, 347 men, 78 women). Cold weather halted all outdoor work during January including construction and public works projects at Lame Deer, idling several hundred workers. Main street business at seasonal levels. Scheduled opening of discount center mid-March will employ 35; over 20 now employed in set-up operations. Farm labor demand chiefly for livestock feeders.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands) Oct. Jan. Feb. May March April Tune July Sept. Nov. Dec. Aug. Aver. 149.0 170,6 172.9 150.6 149.6 155.6 160.7 169.2 171.7 168.3 164.7

1955..... 162.7 162.1 1956..... 177.4 174.2 177.2 170.8 170.0 156.6 154.4 156.3 163.0 169.3 177.4 179.8 174.6 170.4 166.7 168.6 155.0 172.0 174.2 1957..... 156.8 161.3 166.0 167.4 156.8 163.2 159.9 1958..... 153.1 150.3 150.5 156.4 162.4 167.1 170.2 172.2 168.8 165.8 162.4 162.4 174.0 175.8 173.3 179.4 177.5 176.9 176.0 178.5 179.2 177.7 1959. 155.9 167.5 165.6 159.4 153.2 162.2 169.9 161.5 167.5 165.1 1960..... 174.8 176.8 171.6 152.5 156.1 163.5 168.4 166.7 164.5 154.8 158.2 160.2 165.5 156.9 156.1 165.1 170.9 172.4 174.2 178.1 166.2 167.1 158.3 1962 159.6 177.9 175.8 172.3 163.8**

I implayment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1961 to date is supplied in the accompanying supplement.

Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary Jan. 1

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,557 jobseekers, 561 new, 1,172 men, 385 women). Employment in all industries held up well until Mid-January when cold weather forced shutdown of nearly all outside work. Lumber manufacturing stayed on fairly steady schedules with some temporary shutdowns. Trade and service industries show normal winter declines. Planned expansion of plywood firm will create 50 new jobs. Spurt in farm hiring as cold weather created demand for hay haulers and livestock feeders.

POLSON—(418 jobseekers, 82 new, 339 men, 79 women). Jobseekers file on same level as last year, but new claims for unemployment benefits 7 percent fewer. January hiring curbed sharply by bad weather as logging, mill work and construction on shaky schedules. Main street business at winter low. Farm jobs practically non-existent.

SHELBY—(330 jobseekers, 85 new, 250 men, 80 women). Job placements down seasonally during January with weather-caused declines in construction and oil fields. Some job improvement noted, however, over last year. Weather will be key in determining job openings next 60 days. Farm job orders practically nil.

SIDNEY—(195 pobseekers, 62 new, 178 men, 17 women). Employment levels in construction, oil fields and trade establishments reduced substantially during January by sub-zero weather. Most layoffs of temporary duration with workers to return to jobs as weather moderates. Sugar beet refining completed mid-February, releasing 200 workers. Farm labor demand still slow.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(249 jobseekers, 75 new, 206 men, 43 women). Jobseekers more than doubled from December as bad weather clamped down on logging, construction and other outdoor activity. About 70 forest service personnel separated because of lack of operating funds. Construction completed on new city-hall library. Start of other small building projects awaits better weather.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(387 jobseekers, 44 new, 326 men, 61 women). Increased oil feld activty noted with three rigs starting drilling late January. One oil exploration crew also moved into the area. Constructon employment in decline as some pprojects completed and others shut down by weather. Normal seasonal letdown in cafes, service stations, garages and dry goods stores, but with less force than past few years. Little activity on the farm hiring line.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 764 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,364 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products,

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United	d States	Bureau of	Labor S	itatistics)	
	EN	PLOYME	NT	Net C	hange
INDUSTRY	Jan. 1963 (2)	Dec. 1962 (3)	Jan. 1962	Dec. '62 to Jan. '63	Jan. '62 to Jan. '63
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	163,800	169,600	158,300	- 5,800	5,500
Manufacturing	22,000	23,200	19,900	1,200	2,100
Durable goods	14,800	15,000	12,200	200	2,600
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	8,100 3,200 3,500	3,200	7,100 3,500 1,600	[00]	$- {1,000\atop 300\atop 1,900}$
Nondurable goods	7,200	8,200	7,700	1,000	500
Food and kindred productsPrinting and publishingPetroleum refiningOther (5)	3,900 1,700 1,100 500	1,700 1,100	4,300 1,600 1,000 800	00	- 400 100 100 - 300
Mining	7,400 4,200 800 2,400	4,200 800	6,800 4,000 700 2,100	00	200 100 300
Contract Construction	9,400 2,100 2,700 4,600	2,700 3,000	8,300 1,800 3,000 3,500	300	1,100 300 - 300 1,100
Transportation and utilities	1 7,100 7,700 3,600 5,800	7,900 3,600	17,400 7,900 3,600 5,900	- 200 00	- 300 - 200 00 - 100
Trade	38,000 8,100 29,900 6,300 4,600 6,800 6,200 6,000	7,100 5,000 7,200 6,300	8,200	- 400 - 400 - 100	- 800 100 900 600 - 200 100 200 200
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,600	6,700	6,600	100	00
Services and miscellaneous	22,800 2,300 2,000 18,500	2,600 2,000	22,700 2,400 2,000 18,300	- 300 00	- 100 100 00 200
Government Federal State and local	40,500 10,300 30,200	10,700	39,400 10,200 29,200	- 500 - 400 - 100	1,100 100 1,000
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,100 5,100 1,800 2,100 5,400 1,200 3,500 4,000	5,100 2,100 2,100 5,600 1,200 3,500	21,700 3,300 2,400 2,100 5,300 1,200 3,400 4,000	- 500 - 300 - 300 00 - 200 00 00 00	1,400 1,800 00 100 00 100 100 00
Billings Area (Yellowstone County) Manufacturing Contract construction Transportation and utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Finance, Insurance, Real Estate Services and Miscellaneous (7) Government	22,100 2,300 1,300 2,400 7,100 1,300 4,000 3,700	2,700 1,500 2,400 7,600 1,300 4,100	21,900 2,500 800 2,600 7,200 1,300 4,000 3,500	- 1,200 - 400 - 200 00 - 500 00 - 100 00	200 200 500 200 100 00 00 200

⁽⁶⁾ Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership or-

ganizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

⁽⁷⁾ Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JAN. 1962 AND JAN. 1961

Employment	Employment						rs in F		Job Placement								UI CI	
Service	Jan.	1963	Jan.		Jan.	1963			1	Jan. 1		1		بإكانتنانية عاب	1962		Wk. 2-1	
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1963	1962
Anaconda	242 293 84 131 105 73 695 111 136 248 323 137 98 118 561 82 85	222 48 65 20 41 23 15 149 24 23 63 64 22 21 14 109 15 19	765 207 271 107 60 110 71 596 85 138 225 184 103 58 83 518 66 62 63	30 74 18 23 28 15 124 25 28 30 41 32 13 19 132 11	418 3,208 611 1,028 411 130 474 412 2,342 467 479 1,209 1,509 1,509 482 425 1,557 418 330 195 249 387	64 807 125 228 134 87 80 49 672 115 135 369 431 222 98 111 362 123 90 45 67	470 271 813 310 2,949 619 625 1,162 1,956 417 584 489 1,667 419 428 274 356	201 436 89 62 190 79 920 146 182 408 531 125 143 161 464 122 126 56	366 134 123 25 30 37 44 295 26 62 186 52 43 63 41 155 16	7 72 16 3 35 1 1 6 15 7 14 8 21 3 15 21 6 	43 438 150 123 28 65 38 50 310 33 76 194 52 64 66 56 176 16 36 32 27	120 31 20 4 33 8 9 69 5 18 29 11 17 37 24 53 6 13 6	124 82 34 38 65 37 235 19 66 121 88 82 48 33 243 45	9 63 16 6 7 40 2 5 39 4 5 4 1 16 11 25 6		10 188 25 34 12 32 9 14 77 8 25 44 31 33 22 15 48 19 11 6 13	2,367 529 986 270 149 463 248 1,875 311 405 885 1,459 311 501 423 1,068 353 282 278 303	2,395 433 776 304 219 371 198 1,818 344 342 422 412 411,102 331 1,102 331 1,102 132 162
TOTALS	4,766	1,013	3,984	912	17,437	4,510	20,916	5,555	1,835	250	2,085	525	1,967	281	2,248	679	14,146	13,380

^{*}Includes 1,023 claims of the Fed. UC Program 1,034 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average	Weekly 1	Earnings	Averag	e Weekly	Hours	Average	Earnings	
INDUSTRY	Jan. (1) 1963	Dec. (2) 1962	Jan. 1962	Jan. (1) 1963	Dec. (2) 1962	Jan. 1962	Jan. (1) 1963	Dec. (2) 1962	Jan. 1962
All Manufacturing	\$109.33	\$107.73	\$100.88	39.9	40.5	38.8	\$ 2.74	\$ 2.66	\$ 2.60
Durable goods	105.99	109.86	96.97	39.4	41.3	39.1	2.69	2.66	2.48
Primary metalsNondurable goods	103.74 115.18	104.00 103.86	103.46 107.44	39.9 40.7	40.0 38.9	40.1 38.1	2.60 2.83	2.60 2.67	2.58 2.82
Food and kindred products	97.58	90.32	92.97	42.8	40.5	38.9	2.28	2.23	2.39
All Mining	109.73	110.68	107.87	39.9	40.1	40.4	2.75	2.76	2.67
Metal mining	112.12	112.12	103.98	39.9	39.9	38.8	2.81	2.81	2.68
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.) Transportation (except railroads) Utilities and communications	NA NA 103.60	NA NA 101.27	NA NA 96.08	NA NA 40.0	NA NA 39.1	N A N A 38.9	NA NA 2.59	NA NA 2.59	NA NA 2.47

⁽¹⁾ Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

NOTE: Sample improvement has resulted in some hours and earnings series which are not comparable with those previously published. Complete revisions January, 1961 to date are supplied in the supplement accompanying this publication.

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